

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AGR-05 TAR-01 COM-02 SWF-01

AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 FRB-01 INR-05 NSAE-00 RSC-01

CIEP-01 SP-02 STR-01 TRSE-00 LAB-04 SIL-01 SAM-01

OMB-01 L-02 H-01 PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06 /064 W

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R 061456Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6314

INFO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

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PASS AGRICULTURE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD

SUBJECT: EC PROPOSED MINIMUM IMPORT PRICES ON PROCESSED
FRUITS AND VEGETABLES (MIPS).

REF: STATE 264017 AND EC BRUSSELS 9140

1. IN ACCORDANCE WITH REFTELS, WE RAISED MINIMUM IMPORT
PRICES WITH MRS. R. E. HOLLOWAY (FOOD & DRINK INDUSTRIES
DIVISION, MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES & FOOD) AND
RODRIC BRAITHWAITE (EUROPEAN INTEGRATION DEPT., FCO).

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2. HOLLOWAY SAID THERE IS A GOOD CHANCE THAT THE COUNCIL

WILL DECIDE ON A COMMON IMPORT SYSTEM FOR PROCESSED FRUITS AND VEGETABLES AT ITS MEETING ON DECEMBER 9-10. SHE SAID THAT THE UK DOES NOT FAVOR MIPS AND OTHER ARRANGEMENTS FOR "SENSITIVE PRODUCTS" BUT IT IS PREPARED TO GO ALONG WITH THEM AS PART OF AN OVERALL COMMUNITY PACKAGE WHICH, ON BALANCE, HAS TRADE LIBERATING EFFECTS. OFF THE RECORD, SHE IMPLIED THAT THE UK WOULD NOT BE DEEPLY CONCERNED IF THE US CONTESTED THE MIPS IN GATT.

3. HOLLOWAY STRESSED, HOWEVER, THAT MIPS AS SUCH WOULD ONLY APPLY TO TOMATO CONCENTRATES. SHE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT MIPS ARE NOT LEGAL UNDER GATT, BUT POINTED OUT THAT TOMATO CONCENTRATES ARE A PARTICULARLY "EMOTIONAL" PROBLEM FOR THE ITALIANS. THE OTHER SIX ITEMS ON THE SENSITIVE LIST WILL BE COVERED BY "FLOOR PRICES". HOLLOWAY CLAIMED THAT THESE FLOOR PRICES WOULD HAVE NO SIGNIFICANT TRADE EFFECTS, AND THAT THE COMMISSION, AT LEAST, IS CONVINCED THEY ARE LEGAL UNDER GATT. WE SAID THAT THE US DID NOT AGREE WITH THIS INTERPRETATION.

4. HOLLOWAY INDICATED THAT CONSIDERABLE WRANGLING TOOK PLACE AMONG THE MEMBER STATES BEFORE AN AGREEMENT WAS REACHED ON THE ABOVE PROPOSALS. THE INITIAL LIST WAS MUCH LONGER BUT REPORTEDLY WAS REDUCED TO THE BARE ESSENTIALS IN HOPES OF KEEPING OBJECTIONS FROM THIRD COUNTRIES TO A MINIMUM. SHE INDICATED THAT A GENTLEMEN'S AGREEMENT EXISTS FOR NO ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS TO BE MADE IN THE UPCOMING COUNCIL MEETING.

5. ASKING THAT WE PROTECT HER AS THE SOURCE OF THIS INFORMATION, HOLLOWAY SAID THAT THE FRENCH AND ITALIANS MAY ASK AT THE COUNCIL MEETING TO CONTINUE APPLYING QUOTAS ON IMPORTS OF CITRUS JUICES AND CANNED PEACHES FOR A SPECIFIED TIME PERIOD -- PERHAPS THREE YEARS. THIS WOULD MEAN A CORRESPONDING DELAY IN THE INTRODUCTION OF "FLOOR PRICES" FOR THESE PRODUCTS. SPIERS

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Disposition Remarks:
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